



GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING

SOCIAL, HEALTH & ALZHEIMER'S COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES November 6, 2008

Council Members, Liaisons & Committee Participants Present

Doyle Meredith (Chair), Kati Bates, Bill Engler, Joyce Finkelstein, Bernadette Polley, Karla Averill, Sonja Bell-Rabb, David Besst, Dan Fern, Valerie Fifield, Paulette Fraenkel, Victoria Furst, Conni Ingallina, Jami Goldman, Julie Ngiriye, Carmen Segoviano

Council Members Not Present

Lynn Adler, Bernadine Hoffman, George Evanoff, Paul Herrmann

Staff Present

Melanie Starns, Cathy De Lisa, Dan Plumhoff

Guests Present

Michelle Barth, Dr. Robert L. Birdwell, Christine Bryson-Lazo, Jay Crosby, Susan Cypert, Carmen Green, Susan Levy, Karen Richards, Carmen Segoviano, Renee Taylor, Emma Violante

Call to Order, Welcome, Introductions & Approval of Minutes

Committee Chair Doyle Meredith called the meeting to order at 2:36 p.m., and a welcome and introduction period followed. Minutes from the October 2, 2008 meeting were reviewed.

Bernadette Polley made a motion to approve the minutes as written, and Bill Engler seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously.

Updates

Arizona Caregiver Coalition

Mr. David Besst provided a brief history of the Arizona Caregiver Coalition, from its inception in the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee to its current status as an independent entity, and he noted that the Coalition's Steering Committee will hold its second meeting on November 18, 2008 to discuss collaboration, advocacy, and education. Additionally, Mr. Besst noted that November is "National Caregivers Month," and that proclamations have been issued at both the state and federal levels by Governor Janet Napolitano and President George W. Bush, respectively.

Lifespan Respite Program

Mr. David Besst provided a description and overview of the Arizona Department of Economic Security Division of Aging and Adult Services' (DAAS) Lifespan Respite Care Program (which is currently in its second year of existence), to include the program's development and eligibility guidelines. Additionally, Mr. Besst noted that the Arizona Caregivers Coalition has been very

active in supporting the “Lifespan Care Network,” and he invited any interested individuals to attend the Arizona Caregiver Coalition’s next Steering Committee meeting on November 18, 2008. A copy of Mr. Besst’s presentational handout is available through the Council Office.

AZ Links Brochures

Ms. Valerie Fifield reported that the new and updated AZ Links brochures are now available, and that the brochures were produced with federal funds provided by the Governor’s Council on Developmental Disabilities (GCDD) at no cost to the State of Arizona. A copy of the revised AZ Links brochure is available through Ms. Valerie Fifield at DES Division of Aging and Adult Administration and at the Governor’s Office on Aging.

Breakout Discussion by Sub-Committees

The Oral Health Sub-Committee and Hearing Loss Sub-Committee met in their individual groups for approximately one hour.

Report out on SHAC Projects

Oral Health

Deputy Director Cathy De Lisa reported that the Oral Health Sub-Committee will research existing basic oral health care educational programs geared toward persons responsible for providing daily dental care to frail seniors. The Sub-Committee will reconvene at the next Social, Health & Alzheimer’s Committee meeting to discuss identified training programs, and to share ideas on possible future directions to be taken. Additionally, Ms. De Lisa thanked Dr. Robert Birdwell, Dental Director at AHCCCS for sharing his experiences with the Sub-Committee, and she noted that the Sub-Committee is currently in the “information collecting” phase of its three-year project.

Hearing Loss

Ms. Carmen Green of the Arizona Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing reported that the Hearing Loss Sub-Committee discussed potential educational outreach efforts, and that they determined that they will concentrate their initial focus in a two-pronged effort aimed at educating both service providers and consumers. Additionally, Ms. Green stated that the Sub-Committee discussed the necessity of collaborating with additional organizations in order to utilize existing educational resources and “hone in” on reasonable short term goals. Moreover, Ms. Green announced that the Sub-Committee will identify and address different methods of educational outreach geared towards seniors, and that they will look to create a strategic plan outlining their plans.

Other Updates, New Business, & Announcements

- Ms. Susan Levy announced that Native American Health will open the first Urban Adult Day Care center for Native Americans in the country in January of 2009. The center will be located at 1010 E. McDowell Rd., Suite 103, in Phoenix.
- Mr. David Besst noted several Caregiver events occurring during the month of November, specifically noting the statewide “Kinship Care University” event on November 14-15, 2008. Mr. Besst stated that additional details for the upcoming event are available through www.azkincare.org

- Ms. Conni Ingallina announced that November 15, 2008 is National Alzheimer's Memory Screening Day, and that additional screenings will take place in Tucson at the Jewish Community Center on November 18th
- Ms. Christine Bryson-Lazo stated that the Verde Valley "Seniors in Action Coalition" is currently conducting research on various economic situations that are affecting seniors within her area, and that she will share her organizations findings with the Committee within the next three months
- Ms. Paulette Fraenkel announced that she will no longer be attending the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meetings, as another individual from her organization will be succeeding her as the representative to the Committee. She thanked the Committee for the opportunity to serve, and wished everyone well

Action Items

- Sub-Committees of the Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee will meet in breakout sessions during the January, 2009 meeting to discuss next steps.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned by Committee Chair Doyle Meredith at 4:25 p.m.

Next Meeting:

The next Social, Health & Alzheimer's Committee meeting will be January 8, 2009 at 2:30 p.m. in the State Executive Tower, Grand Canyon Room (Basement Level). These meetings are open to the public.